<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended). A method of storing information configured to be used for a plurality of communication protocols to access a monitored device <u>by a monitoring computer</u> among distinct devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

retrieving <u>by the monitoring computer</u>, from a first memory, information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using at least one communication protocol supported by the <u>monitored</u> device;

storing <u>by the monitoring computer</u>, in a second memory, the information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device retrieved from the first memory;

selecting <u>by the monitoring computer</u> a communication protocol among the plurality of communication protocols<u>, the monitored device being configured to process two or more of the plurality of communication protocols</u>; and

<u>directly</u> accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using the selected communication protocol and the information retrieved from the first memory and stored in the second memory <u>by the monitoring computer</u>.

2. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step comprises: accessing a memory external to a monitoring computer to obtain the information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device.

3. (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step comprises: selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

4. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step comprises: retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a username and a password for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using FTP.

5. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step comprises: retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a community name and a password for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using SNMP.

6. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step comprises: retrieving, from the first memory, an IP address of the <u>monitored</u> device.

7. (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the second memory comprises a vector of parameter name and parameter value pairs for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

8. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises: storing the information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device in a device software object associated with the <u>monitored</u> device.

9. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 8, wherein the device software object is stored in a random-access memory unit of [[a]] <u>the</u> monitoring computer.

10. (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving step comprises: accessing the first memory using virtual functions associated with an abstract software class.

11. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step comprises: transmitting to the monitored device, information stored in the second memory necessary to access the monitored device using the selected communication protocol.

12. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, wherein the accessing step comprises: receiving, by the monitored device, the transmitted information; and processing, by the monitored device, the received information.

13. (Currently Amended). A system for storing information configured to be used for a plurality of communication protocols to access a monitored device by a monitoring computer among distinct devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

means for retrieving, from a first memory, information for accessing the monitored device using at least one communication protocol supported by the monitored device, said means for retrieving being disposed in the monitoring computer;

means for storing, in a second memory, the information for accessing the monitored device retrieved from the first memory, said means for storing being disposed in the monitoring computer;

means for selecting a communication protocol among the plurality of communication protocols, said means for selecting being disposed in the monitoring computer, the monitored device being configured to process two or more of the plurality of communication protocols; and

means for accessing the monitored device using the selected communication protocol and the information retrieved from the first memory and stored in the second memory disposed in the monitoring computer.

14. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for retrieving comprises: means for accessing a memory external to a monitoring computer to obtain the information for accessing the monitored device.

15. (Original). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for selecting comprises: means for selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

16. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for retrieving comprises: means for retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a username and a password for accessing the monitored device using FTP.

17. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for retrieving comprises: means for retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a community name and a password for accessing the monitored device using SNMP.

18. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for retrieving comprises: means for retrieving, from the first memory, an IP address of the monitored device.

19. (Original). The system of claim 13, wherein the second memory comprises a vector of parameter name and parameter value pairs for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

20. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for storing comprises: means for storing the information for accessing the monitored device in a device

software object associated with the <u>monitored</u> device.

21. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 20, wherein the device software object is stored in a random-access memory unit of [[a]] <u>the</u> monitoring computer.

22. (Original). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for retrieving comprises: means for accessing the first memory using virtual functions associated with an abstract software class.

23. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 13, wherein the means for accessing comprises: means for transmitting to the <u>monitored</u> device, information stored in the second memory necessary to access the <u>monitored</u> device using the selected communication protocol.

24. (Currently Amended). The system of claim 23, wherein the means for accessing comprises: means for receiving, by the <u>monitored</u> device, the transmitted information; and means for processing, by the <u>monitored</u> device, the received information.

25. (Currently Amended). A computer ~~program product having a computer usable~~ <u>readable storage</u> medium <u>encoded with instructions which when executed by a processing apparatus cause the processing apparatus to implement a method of</u> ~~for~~ storing information configured to be used for a plurality of communication protocols to access a monitored device <u>by a monitoring computer</u> among distinct devices communicatively coupled to a network, <u>the method</u> comprising:

~~instructions for~~ retrieving <u>by the monitoring computer</u>, from a first memory, information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using at least one communication protocol supported by the <u>monitored</u> device;

~~instructions for~~ storing <u>by the monitoring computer</u>, in a second memory, the information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device retrieved from the first memory;

~~instructions for~~ selecting <u>by the monitoring computer</u> a communication protocol among the plurality of communication protocols<u>, the monitored device being configured to process two or more of the plurality of communication protocols</u>; and

~~instructions for~~ accessing the <u>monitored</u> device using the selected communication protocol and the information retrieved from the first memory and stored in the second memory <u>by the monitoring computer</u>.

26. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable storage medium</u> of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ retrieving ~~comprise~~ <u>comprises</u>: ~~instructions for~~ accessing a memory external to a monitoring computer to obtain the information for accessing the <u>monitored</u> device.

27. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable storage medium</u> of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ selecting ~~comprise~~ <u>comprises</u>: ~~instructions for~~ selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

28. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable storage medium</u> of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ retrieving ~~comprise~~ <u>comprises</u>: instructions for retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a username and a password for accessing the

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monitored device using FTP.

29. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ retrieving ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ retrieving, from the first memory, at least one of a community name and a password for accessing the monitored device using SNMP.

30. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ retrieving ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ retrieving, from the first memory, an IP address of the monitored device.

31. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the storing comprises: storing, in the second memory, ~~comprises~~ a vector of parameter name and parameter value pairs for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

32. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ storing ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ storing the information for accessing the monitored device in a device software object associated with the monitored device.

33. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the method further comprises: storing the device software object ~~is stored~~ in a random-access memory unit of [[a]] the monitoring computer.

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34. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ retrieving ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ accessing the first memory using virtual functions associated with an abstract software class.

35. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ accessing ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ transmitting to the monitored device, information stored in the second memory necessary to access the monitored device using the selected communication protocol.

36. (Currently Amended). The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the ~~instructions for~~ accessing ~~comprise~~ comprises: ~~instructions for~~ receiving, by the monitored device, the transmitted information; and ~~instructions for~~ processing, by the monitored device, the received information.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 10-24. These sheets, which include Figs. 10-24, replace the original sheets including Figs. 10-24.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets